

## GLORY OF OUR CITY

Its Matchless Beauties Are Artistically Illustrated

BY THE MAGIC PHOTOGRAPH

Mysteries of the Ancient Syrian Sorcerers Outdone in this Picture of Previous Grand Rapids.

In the days of old, when the far eastern necromancer stirred the clear pool of water, pictures of strange animals, of lofty mountains, of unknown peoples and of beautiful cities passed before the eyes of the amazed pilgrim who knelt at its brink.

The old sorcerer was very well in his day, and probably knew a few facts in science and mechanics that his ignorant auditor had not been permitted to acquire. Miracles there have been from the dawn of time until the dawn of this blessed summer morning of 1893. But none of the miracles of old for a moment rival, or are as well calculated to amaze the mind of the ignorant as the miracles in electricity that Edison and his co-workers publish to the world every day.

To repeat, the turbaned sleight-of-hand performer to whom allusion has already been made, was no doubt a very painstaking and conscientious "artist" for his time, but his times were a great way back in the misty ages of antiquity, and we have no reason to believe that the estimable old gentleman—bright as he undoubtedly was—had gained the slightest idea of the wonderful mysteries of the camera—that grand painter whose one medium is God's bright sun light—that truthful witness whose sure testimony no hair-splitting lawyer would dare to question. To the camera we must look as the successor of the hoary-headed son of the orient who troubled the pool with a magic rod, that the surprise of his spectator might yield a harvest of the small change then current in the dominions of the "Son of Heaven," or whoever might have been the awful potentate that sat upon the throne of the mighty empire of the east.

To the camera we owe the half-tone illustrations that ornament the pages of our great magazines, and to the camera are we indebted for the beautiful engravings that adorn the pages of this unparalleled edition of THE GRAND RAPIDS HERALD—an addition unsurpassed by anything printed in the United States, and which has never been attempted by any Michigan newspaper.

Like this paper the city of Grand Rapids is beautiful beyond the descriptive powers of mortal man. Its walls are not of Jasper, its streets show nothing more closely allied to gold than a high quality of Trinidad asphalt, but, nevertheless, for "beauty of situation" and in many other particulars the place resembles, to some extent at least, that wonderful city which no man hath builded. Nestling close beside the banks of a proud river, covering the hills that roll backward like the petals of a rose, spreading out over miles of as lovely table-land as the eyes of Cortez and his followers ever rested upon in the beautiful land of the Montezumas, our fair city presents every possible variety of topography.

The buildings of Grand Rapids are fully in keeping with its natural beauties. The men who have made fortunes in its manufactures or commerce build for themselves monuments in stately stone or brick blocks that speak more eloquently of the wealth and generosity of their owners than can mere lifeless words carved on the cold walls of a museum. Six, eight and ten story buildings abound, and the style in which they are constructed equals the workmanship and architecture of similar buildings in our great cities. The camera and the faithful half-tone artist have united to "trouble the pool" for the thousands of modern pilgrims who speaking in metaphors—will see this triumph of modern journalism, and the story that they tell can neither be enlarged upon nor detracted from.

The buildings are all full of good tenants who pay rent for the privileges of their use and carry on successful mercantile undertakings within their stately walls. Empty stores have never been a curiosity in this city of much commerce, and as the city increases they become more and more a rarity.

The streets of Grand Rapids are surpassed by those of few cities in America. Years ago the city abandoned its policy of getting down temporary pavements, and as a result our principal streets are laid with almost imperishable pavements of asphalt and vitrified brick. The view of Monroe street shown in this page—a photographic reproduction from the actual scene—tells in language the street of which no pen can hope to become, how well our best business streets are built up, and what an amount of traffic is carried on along them. But it should always be remembered that Monroe street is only one among many—that we have Canal, Pearl, Lyon, Ottawa, Louis, Division, Louis, Campau, Bridge, Fulton, Leonard and many other heavy business streets bordered with stately blocks.

Our electric street railway system is the finest of that of any city in the world. Electricity replaced coal and horse power two years ago, and has proven a glittering success. Nearly 75 miles of electric road for all practical purposes bring the suburbs down to the center of the city, killing distance in a most effective manner. Twelve miles an hour is only ordinary speed for our electric cars, and at that rate of traveling it does not take a Grand Rapids laborer now as long to reach the center of the city from his suburban home as it did the pilgrim mentioned at the outset of this little essay to cross the burning sands of the desert sitting dilligently on the clumpiest hump of his double-decked donkey. Horses are thus made cheap and rentals moderate in this city in which the gods themselves have delighted to abide.

But why enlarge? No power has been lent the pen to tell the story of the beauties of Grand Rapids in such a way as to compare with the sunlight painted pictures that adorn every page of this beautiful paper. The beholder will see what he shall see, and in seeing he will become convinced that no exaggeration has been introduced in this estimate.

In producing this edition of THE GRAND RAPIDS HERALD the printing of half-tone illustrations, although not entirely new, was to the large papers of the east,

has never before been attempted by a Michigan daily, and the cost is so great that it is hardly probable that the example of this paper will be followed soon or often. The illustrations used in this edition are the same in kind and quality as those employed by the Century, Scribner's and our other high-class magazines, and their use has demonstrated the employment of a fine grade of paper, together with good ink and careful press work.

The latest discoveries of photography have also been employed. The "flash light" for the photographing of indoor views has been used so successfully that the interiors shown are fully equal to the pictures taken in the bright sunlight. This method of indoor photography is now alone employed by first-class photographers, and the old, long exposure daylight plates have practically passed from the scene of their former usefulness. The uniform excellence of the photographs used has contributed greatly toward the success of this number. Photography is one of the most useful of modern discoveries, and its civilizing power perhaps surpasses that of any other institution with the exception of printing and steam.

THE HERALD invites the thousands of far-off people whose eyes this lovely paper will be laid, to read it care-

## TAXES ARE NOT HIGH

Low Valuations Make Our Rates Seem Excessive.

BUT TAXATION IS MODERATE

Exhibits Showing the Valuation and Assessments in City and County for Eight Years.

As an abstract proposition the official valuation of a city's wealth should show somewhere near what it amounts to, but, as everybody knows, it does not, especially in these parts. In connection with an issue of this character, however, the comparative valuation and amounts of tax assessments for a term of years covering the city's most rapid growth are of value as indicating to some degree the city's progress. Taxes being a

special figures show a steady increase in value, while the increase in "money" to be raised has naturally followed the city's development. The following figures have been compiled for this souvenir edition from the proceedings of the common council and board of supervisors to show the valuations and assessments made from 1884 to the present date. A perusal of the reports of the council's ways and means committee on submitting the respective annual budgets of estimates is interesting and, at times, humorous. They have invariably "printed with pride" to any comparative decrease in expenditures, and as often hastened to account for an increase. Whatever the alleged shortcomings of the boards of aldermen it is generally conceded that they have conscientiously grappled with the omnipresent problem of keeping up city improvements while keeping down expenditures.

The showing of city assessments and valuations is as follows, exclusive, of course, of special street improvements, which are assessed to the localities benefited.

For city purposes.....	\$307,335.00
For city schools.....	123,000.00
Total for city expenses.....	\$427,335.00
For state purposes.....	36,417.95

## OUR CITY OF HOMES.

Modern Houses Adorn Our Fine Residence Streets.

COMFORT AND BEAUTY BLEND

Something About a Few of the Most Attractive and Comfortable Among Our Best Residences.

Grand Rapids is a city of homes. Our great manufacturers, our merchant princes, our successful professional men vie with each other in the beauty and elaborateness of their homes, while our artisans catch the fever in kind if not in degree. In the case of the latter the numerous building and savings associations that thrive in our midst have aided materially in making the working-men of the city house-owners. These

houses, the first ever used by a Michigan daily newspaper, the houses that most adorn our lovely residence streets. The ones that THE HERALD has chosen are not in all cases the most costly in the city. Indeed, there is a wide diversity as far as facts can be shown by bare figures. But in another particular—in the more important essentials of taste, beauty, comfort—they are uniformly excellent. Instead of twenty the list of houses might easily have been carried on into hundreds, and then not have been exhausted. But there are limits to the possibilities of even a 28-page paper, and it is necessary to draw the line on the lower number.

When one reflects that twenty years ago Grand Rapids was but little more than a village—its homes plainly constructed—the marvelous stride that the young city has taken can hardly be realized. But such is the case. A score of years covers the time that has elapsed since it became a settled fact that Grand Rapids was not to remain a big inland village, but was to march on in the ranks of the cities that live, and at the end of twenty years take its place as one of the foremost manufacturing cities of the western world.

Twenty years ago the men who own the beautiful homes portrayed in this splendid edition of THE HERALD were

## OUR WAY IS UPWARD

Phenomenal Expansion of Our Residence Section.

HOMES RISE UP EVERYWHERE

North, South, East and West Have Responded to the Magic Touch of Thrift and Enterprise.

If Joel Guild could look down upon this community in its present stage of development it seems quite doubtful whether he would recognize it as the "rapids" of fifty years ago, grown to about 2,000 times its then humble proportions.

Joel would find even the face of the country comprised in "township 7 north of ranges 11 and 12 west" altered to what would seem to him a remarkable degree.

The most prominent and familiar hills which formerly loomed up in the vicinity of Lyon, Pearl, Ottawa, Louis and Monroe streets would have apparently vanished as though their clay had never stuck to the pioneer cowbills.

The numerous little streams which crossed at various angles would not be visible, having long since disappeared before the march of modern artificial improvement.

The once swampy portions of the south end are visible no more and the long, narrow tamarack swamp valley to the southward is now such a highway of railway tracks that its appearance is as different as could well be imagined. The blackash district lowlands once north of East Bridge street is gone and the government building looms up from what was a marshy widening of the brook which rippled across Fountain, Pearl and Lyon streets and found the river down near Erie street.

The only part of the city whose topography remains anywhere near what it was by nature is the west side, and in that district miles of neat, yarded dwellings, etc. cover up the Indian's favorite cornfield sites.

Comparisons of half a century of progress speak grandly of the strides the town has made, but comparisons of increase in property values and modern improvements in later years tell proportionally more of the real advancement of Grand Rapids. Its growth for ten years past has been phenomenal, not on account of the spurts or "booms" which have characterized many cities, but because of its steadiness and the conservative estimate of land values. It has never suffered a relapse, and its future possibilities are unbounded.

THE HERALD takes pleasure in this real estate souvenir edition to demonstrate by figures the actual increase in reality, according to the estimates of assessors. But, however gratifying may be the comparisons of assessed valuations (even according to the supervisors' traditional low estimates), they are eclipsed by the showing of population in the new city directory just issued. The persistent prophecy of one now deceased, reiterated many times in this paper, that "Grand Rapids will have 100,000 population in 1892" has actually been fulfilled beyond question.

In no direction is the wonderful change more conspicuous than easterly, where East street, but a short time ago the city limits and "jumping off place," is now but one of dozens of north and south improved thoroughfares. Wealthy avenue, straight and level, has moved east almost to Park Lake avenue, destined to be and in fact already one of the most beautiful residence and driving streets in the city, will this season dispense with its toll gate and will convey the Cherry street cars lakeward, giving an additional line to the lake through the best of the residence district of the Third ward.

The improvements at Reed's Lake have kept pace with those down town. To detail them is superfluous.

As shown elsewhere land values in the east end have more than doubled in value the past three years and the lucky holders of acreage thereabouts are happy. Expressions of surprise common among passengers to the lake from other parts of the city at the fine class of homes being erected all across from Fountain street to Fifth avenue. The improvement of East Fulton street has opened up a region of splendid opportunities for homes and investments, and nothing more desirable than the high, gently rolling ground of those parts could be wished for. The hill electric line will shortly be completed to Fuller street, giving ten minutes time to the foot of Lyon street. Then there is Fifth avenue, which offers much the same for the future east of East street. Being in direct line with the lake it will doubtless be the site of double street car tracks before many years. Farther northward and still east of East street the brickyards, which not long since blocked the extension of Fountain and Lyon streets and Crescent avenue, have disappeared and the valley whose clay has gone into the walls of numerous buildings is now covered by neat streets and homes of the middle-class. East Bridge street has business all the way out and speculators have done well in its adjoining property.

For the average home-seeker the northwestern part of the city has many attractions. It has become a place of well improved streets running through a region of hills and dales, an ideal place for homelike living. Its great drawback has been lack of street railways, but the East Leonard and College avenue extensions will solve the difficulty when the city council and the street railway company shall have finished haggling over the matter.

Possibilities of the north end north of Sweet street are unbounded. The high, gently sloping ground, commanding a magnificent view of the river and valley, is a natural site for homes. The North Park railway has solved the rapid transit problem successfully, even last winter, when many street cars in the centers of other cities were "stalled" for days together.

The West Michigan driving park and grounds, across the river from the Soldiers' Home, have contributed to the city's fame, owing to the mass of world wide interest which were run there last season and will be run this summer.

Crossing the river one finds a territory northward from the D. G. H. A. M. which has lately become a place of considerable interest in speculation, especially on account of the new factories going up about the junction of the D.



MONROE STREET LOOKING SOUTH.

fully, and learn what manner of people dwell on the banks of the beautiful Grand river.

### HEALTH OF THE CITY.

#### Splendid Topographical and Climatic Advantages.

Grand Rapids and the country immediately surrounding it is proverbially healthful. The reasons for this are its immunity from extremes of temperature, the excellent drainage of the great valley in which it is situated, and the fact that the seasons of heat and cold are of insufficient length to give any prevalent disease an opportunity to spread before it can be checked either by warmth or heat. Conclusive proof of the advantages possessed by this locality in relation to health and longevity can be found in the statistics of the mortality of the leading cities of the country as furnished by the various boards of health. A careful inspection of the re-

ports of living in a rapidly developing community it could scarcely be expected that Grand Rapids should escape her pro rata; but the rate of taxation is shown to be ridiculously high, especially at the present time, chiefly because the valuation of city property has been officially set at the meager total of \$21,500,000. If the valuation was doubled the rate would be proportionately decreased and wisely would question the wisdom of so doing. Somebody would have to pay the same taxes, but it is generally surmised that some wealthy real estate holders would be obliged to pay a more equitable proportion, and that the burden upon owners of small homes would, in some cases, be lessened.

At the last annual session of the county board of supervisors the valuation of the entire county was placed at \$52,500,000. The city board of equalization had placed the city's figure at \$21,500,000, which was reduced to \$20,922,500. The state board of equalization, which meets

associations are largely patronized, and the good that they accomplish is incalculable. Homes are also sold on a small payment down, and moderate monthly payments thereafter. In this way a large proportion of our workmen come to be landed proprietors, and their value as citizens is wonderfully increased. The regular wages and steady employment that our mechanics secure in our great factories is another important factor in releasing laboring men from the burden of tenant slavery. Furniture workers are well paid in every department, and this rule holds good throughout the entire list of our multifarious industries. The cost of living here is not high, and ground prices are not exorbitant. In fact, the condition of the laboring classes of the Valley City is at least equal to that of any other factory city in the world.

Costly and fashionable residences are also common throughout all parts of the city. A great deal of wealth has been

as a rule either just embarked in enterprises that gave little promise of the greatness to which they afterwards attained, or had not yet cast their financial nets into the silvery sea that was destined to yield for them a rich harvest. Yet today these same men live in palaces, and their lives are blessed with comforts that come from large riches wisely expended.

Dumas' Factory for Novels.

In a conversation which I had with M. Dumas, he gave me some interesting details of his earlier life. He was born in Paris on July 27, 1824, and while a youth was the pet of his generous-hearted father, Alexandre Dumas, the elder, who at that time was managing what the son sardonically styled a "fabrique des romans," or a "factory of novels," employing several impecunious writers at so much a week, furnishing each with a particular plot for a partic-



STATE STREET PAVED WITH TRINIDAD ASPHALT.

ported causes of death shows that there are none which can properly be charged to the climate or can be claimed to be peculiar or unusual to this region.

### Half a Dozen for Each

Dick Gordon sent a lady friend from the country, and after the theater they went to an up-town restaurant. Each glided at a half of fare, and Dick said to the waiter:

"Give me a half dozen fried lobsters," said the young lady.

Mr. Gordon faintled and the waiter fell in a trance. — Albany Journal.

every five years, had the year previous, raised Kent county \$10,000,000 using to the effect of representatives from the toll and other taxes, who had traveled over the state and found that Kent and some other counties had been getting off pretty light in the assessments of state taxes. There appears to be no remedy for this reduction by the supervisors, notwithstanding the law passed by legislators of last year have aimed to bring out just valuations, either through sworn statements of the owners or a strict carrying out of the official audits of the supervisors.

Had even with the imperfect application of the assessment system, the off-

assessments are largely patronized, and the good that they accomplish is incalculable. Homes are also sold on a small payment down, and moderate monthly payments thereafter. In this way a large proportion of our workmen come to be landed proprietors, and their value as citizens is wonderfully increased. The regular wages and steady employment that our mechanics secure in our great factories is another important factor in releasing laboring men from the burden of tenant slavery. Furniture workers are well paid in every department, and this rule holds good throughout the entire list of our multifarious industries. The cost of living here is not high, and ground prices are not exorbitant. In fact, the condition of the laboring classes of the Valley City is at least equal to that of any other factory city in the world.

For city purposes.....	\$307,335.00
For city schools.....	123,000.00
Total for city expenses.....	\$427,335.00
For state purposes.....	36,417.95

For city purposes.....	\$307,335.00
For city schools.....	123,000.00
Total for city expenses.....	\$427,335.00
For state purposes.....	36,417.95

For city purposes.....	\$307,335.00
For city schools.....	123,000.00
Total for city expenses.....	\$427,335.00
For state purposes.....	36,417.95

For city purposes.....	\$307,335.00
For city schools.....	123,000.00
Total for city expenses.....	\$427,335.00
For state purposes.....	36,417.95

For city purposes.....	\$307,335.00
For city schools.....	123,000.00
Total for city expenses.....	\$427,335.00
For state purposes.....	36,417.95

For city purposes.....	\$307,335.00
For city schools.....	123,000.00
Total for city expenses.....	\$427,335.00
For state purposes.....	36,417.95

For city purposes.....	\$307,335.00
For city schools.....	123,000.00
Total for city expenses.....	\$427,335.00
For state purposes.....	36,417.95

For city purposes.....	\$307,335.00
For city schools.....	123,000.00
Total for city expenses.....	\$427,335.00
For state purposes.....	36,417.95

For city purposes.....	\$307,335.00
For city schools.....	123,000.00
Total for city expenses.....	\$427,335.00
For state purposes.....	36,417.95

For city purposes.....	\$307,335.00
For city schools.....	123,000.00
Total for city expenses.....	\$427,335.00
For state purposes.....	36,417.95



LAFAYETTE STREET PAVED WITH TRINIDAD ASPHALT.

amused in manufacturing, in lumbering, in trade and by the exercise of the various professions. The owners of this wealth are, as a rule, men of taste, who delight in surrounding their homes with the accessories of modern life. In doing this they have expended money freely, but the results they have achieved fully justify their expenses.

This edition of THE HERALD is devoted to demonstrating by the camera—that seen without which cannot be lost what sort of a city Grand Rapids is. To do this satisfactorily, the paper has been compelled to beg from a score of our most prominent citizens the privilege of reproducing in beautiful half-

ton story, and leaving the dialogue and description to be filled in by them. When the "copy" was finished the editor would revise it and send it direct to the printer for publication, under his own name. These scribes were supposed to be his secretaries, to whom he simply dictated the pages of his stories, and the public of course, believed that they were all the mental product of the great Dumas himself. A novel a month was issued from this "factory," with the result that the editor, like one of his characters, "Monte Cristo," reaped in golden hours, but spent them as freely and as easily as he won them. — Eugene Davis, in Literary World.